

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

INSIDE

**Cuba answers US slanders
against internationalist doctors**

— PAGE 6

VOL. 83/NO. 30 AUGUST 19, 2019

New prime minister vows to take UK out of EU

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised to take the U.K. out of the European Union by Oct. 31 as his new government attempts to address the deep-seated crisis of British capitalism. After taking office he set off on a U.K. tour, promising Brexit and pledging billions of pounds in government spending, hoping to regenerate regions where working people have been hard hit by the economic and social crisis.

Johnson was welcomed by U.S. President Donald Trump, who claimed he would be known as “Britain Trump.” The U.S. ambassador to London, Woody Johnson, told Fox TV News July 30 that the administration saw Boris Johnson as an important ally. “The British have been very supportive” he said of Washington’s proposed naval escort for ships in the Arab-Persian Gulf, known as Operation Sentinel. “They’re a very important part of the coalition to defend the ships going through the Strait,” of Hormuz.

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Oppose US economic sanctions on Venezuela!

BY SETH GALINSKY

In an escalation of its economic sanctions against Venezuela, President Donald Trump issued an executive order Aug. 5 that prohibits almost all remaining U.S. trade with the government of Venezuela and aims to get foreign companies to comply as well.

In a letter to Congress, Trump said the order is aimed at removing Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro from power and replacing him with Juan Guaidó, a pro-imperialist opposition leader who proclaimed himself president in January.

“This is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people,” said Amy Husk, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Kentucky. “The U.S. government wants to decide who should be the president of Venezuela. The U.S. rulers claim they are concerned about the people of Venezuela, but all they care about is getting a government that is favorable to U.S. imperialism. Working people need to say, ‘U.S. hands off!’”

The new U.S. sanctions are especially

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‘Workers need to build their own party — independent of the bosses’



Pierre-Luc Filion, Communist League candidate in Canada, speaks at rally in Ottawa Aug. 3 against continued military rule in Algeria and for release of those arrested during protests there.

BY JANET POST

The 20-plus candidates vying for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination want to compete with President Donald Trump over who should be the chief executive officer for the capitalist class and command its armed forces in the wars the U.S. rulers wage around the world.

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In the course of the Democratic Party debates each candidate offers ways to patch up the system of exploitation and oppression, the opposite of the course presented by candidates of the Socialist Workers Party to unify and mobilize working people to overthrow that system.

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Kentucky miners block coal trains to demand back pay

Fight shows need to organize unions, use union power



Sydney Boles

Coal miners and supporters block rail tracks at mine near Cumberland, Kentucky, to prevent Blackjewel Coal from shipping coal until company pays miners wages they are owed.

BY JANET POST

Dozens of miners and their families have set up camp on rail tracks near Cumberland, Kentucky, to block trains hauling coal from the Cloverlick #3 Mine. They’re protesting the refusal of Blackjewel Coal Co., which declared bankruptcy July 1, to pay miners the wages they are owed.

“There’ll be no trains coming in, there’ll be no trains going out,” coal miner Shane Smith told WYMT-TV in Harlan County July 30.

When word spread in the area that CSX was loading a coal train at the mine July 26, six miners organized to block the train. Their numbers grew to 100 people. “No pay, we stay,” they wrote on signs by their

tent encampment.

“We had to step up. We were robbed. They didn’t use a gun, but they robbed us anyway,” Chris Lewis, one of the original six miners, told the *Militant* at the encampment Aug. 7.

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Press group says end ban on ‘Militant’ in Florida prisons

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Florida Press Association has joined the fight to halt the censorship of the *Militant* by Florida prison officials, who have impounded 10 issues of the paper since April. The association represents most newspapers in the state.

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New US tariffs aimed at slowing rising power of rival Beijing

BY ROY LANDERSEN

President Donald Trump threatened to impose 10% tariffs on \$300 billion of imports from China next month after trade talks in Shanghai failed to reach any agreement between the U.S. and Chinese governments. The deepening trade dispute triggered a sell-off of stocks on global markets and added to investors’ fears over the worldwide slowdown in the growth of the capitalist economy.

Trump claimed his protectionist measures were a response to Beijing’s failure to follow through on pledges

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Sky Chefs workers picket Dallas-Fort Worth airport

New labor law in Mexico aims to tie unions to gov't

BY RÓGER CALERO

Mexico's president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who took office Dec. 1, has promised a "profound and radical" transformation of the country. His government is hoping its labor legislation and other welfare programs can be used to contain struggles by working people.

He has raised the minimum wage in most of the country by 16% to \$5.10 a day and doubled it in the northern border zone to \$8.80 a day. He has made a big show of reducing government expenses, cutting his own salary by 60% to \$5,600 a month and eliminating thousands of federal jobs. And he has cut money for public hospitals, resulting in the layoff of workers, cutbacks on tests for sick patients, and cancellations of surgeries.

Nonetheless, López Obrador remains popular among working people.

Many workers hope the labor law reform passed April 29 will allow them to have a say in their unions. The law promises a secret ballot for voting on what, if any, union will represent workers at a given company. It requires that workers be given a copy of contracts negotiated by union officials and says they have the right to vote on it.

For decades workers had not elected which union was "representing" them at a workplace. Instead, the bosses and union officials — allied with the ruling party — cut secret agreements that included automatically deducting union dues from workers' pay. Terms of the "contract" were worked out behind closed doors.

But a close look at the new law shows it's not the step forward that it's presented to be.

It replaces the old government-appointed labor boards, which favored the bosses and the political party in office, with labor courts. These courts in Mexico as well as in the U.S. are not neutral, however. They defend the "sanctity" of capitalist law regardless of which party appoints them.

Unions subordinate to the state

The new law ties workers up in red tape, in an attempt to strengthen control of the unions by the capitalist state. It aims to replace the old union bureaucracy with one more favorable to López Obrador and his Morena party, in hopes of shoring up the rule of the capitalist class, which faces a slowdown in economic growth and sharpening competition from rivals worldwide.

The new labor law states that the purpose of a strike is "to harmonize labor rights with those of capital." But every class-conscious worker knows that a strike is a weapon used to wrest concessions from the bosses or prevent them from pushing down wages and working conditions.

Under the new law unions must be recognized by the labor court. They are required to give six days notice before going on strike, which is permitted only to win a contract or to ensure enforcement of a contract. The labor court can order the union to delay a strike for a wide variety of reasons. And it can order "essential personnel" to keep working during a strike.

Such measures have nothing to do with strengthening union democracy. They are an attempt to maintain house-broken unions.



Workers on strike in Tamaulipas, Mexico, in January. Some 35,000 workers at over 40 mostly foreign-owned parts plants near the U.S. border won 20% wage increase.

That political course is nothing new. During the Mexican Revolution of 1910-20, and under subsequent regimes that culminated with the bourgeois nationalist government of Lázaro Cárdenas (1934-40), the trade unions were co-opted by the state to serve in a "common project" — strengthening of capitalism in Mexico. Concessions were granted to put a break on the toilers' mobilization and subordinate the labor and peasant movement to the Mexican ruling class.

The union bureaucracy was an integral part of what became the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which ruled Mexico uninterruptedly for 71 years, until its electoral defeat in 2000. Union officials mobilized members to turn out the vote for the party and served in government posts. Until 2015 union officials were given positions on the board of directors of the state-owned Pemex oil company.

"In Mexico the trade unions have been transformed by law into semi-state institutions. The statization of the trade unions was, according to the conception of the legislators, introduced in the interests of the workers, in order to assure them an influence upon governmental and economic life," wrote Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky in a 1940 article "Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay." The article is included in the new Pathfinder Press book *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*.

This class-collaborationist setup

served the ruling class in Mexico and imperialists' interests well, ensuring relative "labor stability" and low wages.

The same course is pursued by union officials in the United States, who urge workers to rely on getting "labor friendly" Democrats elected into office to pass laws that regulate what bosses can do.

'America first' poison

Democratic Party leaders in the U.S. Congress conditioned ratification of the latest U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement to the passing of new labor laws in Mexico. Claiming concern for "how workers are treated in Mexico," and not making it "lucrative" for American companies to move abroad, and to protect "American jobs," they aim to convince working people that we have common interests with the employers. By doing so they undercut international solidarity with working people in Mexico and other countries.

Driven by harsh economic conditions and greater expectations, workers in Mexico are beginning to see their potential power. Earlier this year 35,000 workers at mostly foreign-owned parts factories close to the U.S. border went on strike, winning a 20% wage increase.

It is through building fighting unions and waging struggles independent of the ruling class and its parties that working people in Mexico and the United States can begin to chart a road forward, not relying on the capitalist state, its laws and representatives.

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THE MILITANT

End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico



Puerto Rican Teachers Federation
Marchers in San Juan July 20 demanded
resignation of Puerto Rican governor.

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‘Workers need their own party’

Continued from front page

“Capitalism has long outlived any productive role in society. We need to build a working-class movement, independent of the two capitalist parties, that fights to advance the working class to take political power,” Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, told the *Militant*.

Jarrett is one of several SWP candidates around the country presenting this political perspective as they campaign door to door in working-class neighborhoods, at labor protests and picket lines, and other protest actions. He submitted 240 signatures July 30 to get on the ballot for District 1 of the City Council.

“We can use the campaign to give voice to working people involved in social struggles, and fights against the back-breaking working conditions being imposed by the bosses,” Jarrett added.

Amnesty for undocumented workers

“My campaign demands an amnesty for undocumented workers,” Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for Atlanta School Board, told construction worker Phillip Whiting at his home in that city Aug. 3. Whiting gave Fruit a “high-five.”

“The government wants to make it harder for us to organize unions by keeping a section of the workforce afraid they could be deported,” Fruit said.

“And let me tell you — they don’t want to deport them all,” said Whiting, describing how bosses at construction sites he has worked on assign jobs based on workers’ race, sex and country of origin. He got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

The day before, Fruit joined a demonstration in northwest Atlanta to protest the emission of a cancer-causing compound, ethylene oxide, by the Sterigenics plant, which sterilizes medical products.

Georgia Health News and WebMD issued a report July 19 that emissions of the compound from the plant are way beyond what the Environmental Protection Agency considers to be “acceptable.” A town hall meeting of 200 followed on July 30.

Judy Renfro, 46, who lives a half-mile from the plant, told Fruit at the demonstration that she is worried about her 6-year-old son’s health. “I don’t want to sell the house to another family that would face the same emissions. It’s not ethical. The company should buy out these homes.”

Barry Goppman, 72, told Fruit,

“The plant has been here since 1972. Why did it take so long for this to become public knowledge?”

“The government protects the interests of the bosses,” Fruit responded. “That’s why it’s necessary to break with their two parties and organize an independent fight.”

The SWP campaign explains why workers and their unions need to fight for workers control over production and safety.

In Quebec, Pierre-Luc Filion, Communist League candidate in the federal election in the constituency of Longueuil-St. Hubert, recently walked the picket lines of United Steelworkers on strike at the Galvano plating plant (see article on page 5). He also joined with Service Employees International Union Local 298 workers who struck for a \$15 an hour minimum wage at senior residences in Quebec.

“The biggest obstacle facing us is our tendency to underestimate ourselves, to underestimate what we can accomplish, to doubt our own value. That’s why we need to build our own party, independent of the bosses’ parties,” Filion told Jean-Guy Touchette, an office worker at Bombardier, while going door to door in Montreal Aug. 2.



Militant/Phil Norris

Malcolm Jarrett, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, filed to get on ballot July 30, with supporters. “We need to build a movement independent of the two capitalist parties, that fights to advance the working class to take power,” Jarrett says.

Filion has joined weekly rallies held in solidarity with protests in Algeria, demanding an end to military rule there. In April President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was forced to resign. The army postponed a presidential election due on July 4, refusing to set a new date. Tens of thousands took to the streets demanding the removal of interim president Abd elkader Bensalah July 19.

Filion addressed an Aug. 3 rally in Ottawa, where protesters demanded the Algerian authorities release those arrested during the anti-government demonstrations. He explained that the imperialist rulers in Canada exploit working people worldwide. “What they do in Algeria and other countries is an extension of what they do to working people here,” he said.

Socialist Workers Party 2019 campaign program

The Socialist Workers Party’s fighting program to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:

UNIONS Support workers’ struggles to organize and strengthen unions, to use union power to defend ourselves and all working people. *One union for all* drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based and car service drivers! Support farm-workers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver’s licenses for all.

JOBS Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing workers need. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS US hands off Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

CUBA — AN EXAMPLE End the embargo against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Fight for universal, government-guaranteed health care and retirement income for all.

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the

face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred, and murderous violence.

LAND AND LABOR Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all energy monopolies to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to control emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases and prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

“JUSTICE” SYSTEM Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail, and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly, and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI

and other government spying, harassment and disruption.

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary confinement. End censorship of the *Militant*, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. A movement of millions can be built to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploitative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

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Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions

A tribune of the people uses every manifestation of capitalist oppression to explain why it’s workers and our allies who can and will — in the course of struggles by the unions and beyond — lay the foundations for a world based not on violence and competition but on solidarity among working people worldwide.

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Are they rich because they’re smart?

Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism

by Jack Barnes

“The meritocracy are mortified to be identified with working people. They fear someday being ruled by those they worry could become the ‘great mob’ the toiling and producing majority.”

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\$10

UK head vows to get out of EU

Continued from front page

Leaders of the main EU member states and Brussels bureaucracy were less welcoming, having sought to punish the U.K. government for taking steps towards quitting the EU. Michel Barnier, the EU's Brexit negotiator, said Johnson's terms for talks on the U.K.'s departure from the protectionist trading bloc were "unacceptable."

The left of capitalist politics and media in the U.K. have described the new government as the "most right-wing" in decades, even "fascist."

It's anything but that. Johnson is a "one nation" Conservative, promoting cross-class unity in the so-called national interest. Much of the political ground he occupies — increased funding for education and health and recruiting thousands more cops — is similar that of the Labour Party.

In addition, he has pledged an amnesty for 500,000 undocumented immigrants and continued residency in the U.K. after Brexit for EU nationals.

Johnson's victory appeared to give the Conservative Party a boost in the polls. In Aug. 1 by-election in the mid-Wales constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire the Conservatives polled four times the vote of the Brexit Party. The election was won by the Liberal Democrats, which garnered votes from a coalition of parties that support the U.K. remaining in the EU. Johnson's governing Conservatives came in second. Labour under leader Jeremy Corbyn leans towards "remain." The party is dogged by its protection of anti-Semites in and outside the party, and is bereft of answers to Johnson. It won just 5% of the by-election vote, coming in fourth.

But the "Boris bounce" touted by the press was not in evidence when Communist League members campaigned in Harlow, Essex, just north of London, Aug. 3. "They're all the same," shop worker Jackie Gunner said. "They promise everything and give us nothing. They look after their interests at our expense."

Johnson faces the same political realities that beset previous administrations: the U.K.'s disproportionate decline in relation to its capitalist rivals; the capitalist world disorder, in which the European Union itself is being torn apart; and the rulers' concern about what's brewing among working people, who are being hammered by

the impact of the capitalist crisis.

The British rulers were unable to prevent the Iranian Revolutionary Guard from seizing a British tanker in the Gulf last month. Today the U.K. navy has just 40 ships in operation — half its size during the 1982 Falklands/Malvinas War.

Factional divisions over EU

The dominant sections of the British ruling class cling to EU membership. They aim to thwart the 2016 referendum vote to quit the EU. They are doing this through scare stories about what its impact would be on jobs, availability of food and medicines and broader economic dislocation; proposals for a second referendum; and maneuvers in Parliament where the government has a majority of only one and the bulk of Members of Parliament are "remainers." Factional divisions over the European Union increasingly outweigh party loyalty.

Johnson has also been forced to address fault lines that threaten a breakup of the United Kingdom. Declaring himself "Minister for the Union," the prime minister visited Scotland and Northern Ireland where large "remain" majorities were scored in the 2016 EU referendum. The Scottish National Party has called for a new vote on Scotland's independence from the U.K. Johnson has revived his own calls for increased devolution of political powers to assemblies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The previous government of Theresa May had proposed avoiding border checks between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, allowing the free movement of goods across the island and keeping the U.K. in a customs union with the EU until they both agree to end it. Johnson rejects May's arrangement.

A return to a hard border disrupting trade and social communication between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will see a step up in calls for a united Ireland.

Johnson also visited Wales where farmers told him they would face tariffs of 46% to 65% in the event of the U.K. leaving the EU with no trade deal. One third of UK sheep meat production goes to countries in the EU. Johnson pledged financial backing to the farmers and said his government might support continued U.K. mem-

Capitalism's World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

"Conflicts between rival national capitalist classes and governments are blowing apart the myth of a 'united Europe.' The gap has widened between rates of capital accumulation and economic development in Britain and other more powerful capitalist countries in Europe."

The Jewish Question

A Marxist Interpretation

by Abram Leon

"Capitalist society, on the edge of an abyss, tries to save itself by resurrecting the hatred of the Jews. The social contradictions, banished for a moment by the fumes of 'racial' intoxication, reappear in all their sharpness."

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UK gov't fails to maintain dam, threatening homes



Reuters/Phil Noble

LONDON — After days of heavy rain, a dam containing 1.3m tonnes of water from the Toddbrook Reservoir suffered major damage — possibly leading to a complete collapse. Thousands of people have evacuated nearby Whaley Bridge and 10 other towns in the High Peak area of Derbyshire, 20 miles southeast of Manchester.

The threat to workers and farmers in the area shines a spotlight on the U.K.'s infrastructure crisis and the rulers' profit-driven contempt for working people, whose lives, homes and livelihoods are at stake.

Local residents have reported cracks in the spillway and vegetation protruding through. "We have been telling them for years that the spillway has been clogging up with plants, trees and weeds," Duncan Fife, who lives by the reservoir, told BBC News. "Why don't they maintain it?"

"Visits to the area by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn will solve nothing" said Hugo Wils, a member of the Communist League in Manchester. "What's needed is a crash program of government-funded public works to build the infrastructure we need. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production to protect those on the job and in the nearby communities."

— JONATHAN SILBERMAN

bership in the EU's single market and customs union for a "couple of years."

"We shouldn't be looking to any capitalist government, which just looks after the interests of the ruling rich," Communist League member Julie Crawford told Harlow worker Saidh Miah, 38, who said he was op-

posed to the war moves against Iran. "On all matters — foreign policy and domestic — what's needed is an independent working-class course — from getting out of the EU now, leaving Ireland to the Irish, to building and strengthening the trade unions," Crawford added.

Condemn anti-Semitic shooting in Miami, says Socialist Workers Party

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NORTH MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Yosef Lipschutz, 68, was shot at least six times July 28 as he sat outside the Young Israel of Greater Miami synagogue waiting to join the evening prayers.

He survived the anti-Semitic attack, but has undergone several surgeries since. Synagogue President Damon Salzman said Lipschutz faces "what may be a prolonged recovery."

No one has been arrested for the attempted killing, which took place eight months after the murder of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh by ultra-rightist Robert Bowers.

"People are scared: 'Can I come to shul with my child?'" Amy Salzman, who runs the synagogue's youth program, told the *Jewish News*.

Young Israel is located in a neighborhood with a high concentration of Orthodox Jews. The murderous assault quickly became international news, prompting others to speak out.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations in Florida said in a statement,

"An attack on a synagogue is an attack on every mosque, church, temple, and place of peace and worship in this country." The group offered its prayers to "Lipschutz and all our Jewish brothers and sisters."

Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Miami City Commissioner, visited the synagogue, Aug. 1. He delivered a letter addressed to Salzman stating his campaign "offers our solidarity with you in the wake of the reactionary shooting of Yosef Lipschutz."

"Jew-hatred and its murderous consequences are a product of the crisis of the capitalist system. The scapegoating of Jews is a deadly threat to all working people," Dutrow wrote.

"I am using my campaign to urge working people and the entire labor movement to speak out against this attack," he added.

The receptionist at the synagogue told Dutrow that all the synagogues in North Miami Beach would be celebrating the Sabbath together at Young Israel Aug. 3 in an act of solidarity.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Are you involved in a union organizing drive or strike? Brought solidarity to fellow workers on the picket line? Let us know! Send articles, photos and letters to themilitant@mac.com or through our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Striking Indiana Machinists rally for health care, higher pay

VALPARAISO, Ind. — Chanting “2-4-6-8 why won’t you negotiate?” some 150 members of International Association of Machinists Local 2018 and their supporters rallied outside the Regal Beloit factory here Aug. 2.

The unionists went on strike June 30, rejecting company demands for a contract that sharply increased workers’ health insurance costs. The unionists also want wage increases and clear break times, instead of that being arbitrarily decided by the bosses each day.

Workers at the plant manufacture high tolerance bearings for helicopters and airplanes.

“They have been bragging that they have had the best sales ever in the history of the company and then they come back offering a 36 cents an hour raise,” Diane Brandenburg, who has worked at the plant for 43 years, told the *Militant*. “A lot of older workers retired over the last few years. We have more younger workers and they have inspired us to strike.”

The event included supporters from around northwest Indiana and from the Chicago metropolitan area. “I’m here to support my union brothers and sisters,” said Rebeca Christie, a member of United Steelworkers Local 6687. “I am missing four hours of work to be here but it is worth it.” Retired Steelworker Ken Yatsko added, “You mess with one worker, you mess with all workers.”

The workers keep up a picket line 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

—*Dean Hazlewood and Zena Jasper*

Sky Chefs workers picket Dallas-Fort Worth airport terminal

DALLAS — “Bad insurance, lousy pay. This is how your food is made!” chanted airline food workers outside the airport’s Terminal D here Aug. 1. The workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 23, have been picketing twice a

week to build support for an Aug. 13 rally in front of American Airlines corporate headquarters.

American makes billions in profits by contracting with Sky Chefs where workers get low wages and inadequate health coverage. The picketers, some of whom are from the African countries of Cameroon, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, along with other members and supporters of the union, carried signs saying, “One job should be enough.”

UNITE HERE represents 11,000 Sky Chefs workers across the country whose contracts expire in August. The union has requested it be released from mediation talks, which would give it legal authority to organize strike action after a 30-day cooling off period. Like rail workers, airline workers face draconian anti-working-class legislation under the Railway Labor Act, that wraps the union in bureaucratic red tape designed to restrict workers’ right to strike.

—*George Chalmers*

Quebec Steelworkers reject concessions, strike Galvano plant

SAINT-MATHIEU-DE-BELOEIL, Quebec — Angered by the bosses’ demand for concessions at the Galvano plating plant here, members of United Steelworkers Local 9414 overwhelmingly rejected the company’s final con-



Militant/Salm Kolis

IAM Local 2018 members on strike for higher pay and against bosses attacks on health care at Regal Beloit, rally with supporters outside factory in Valparaiso, Indiana, Aug. 2.

tract offer and went on strike July 9. The 35 unionists employed there set up a picket line the same day.

“We have made concessions since 2004 when the company filed for bankruptcy,” striker Éric Pellerin told the *Militant*. “But now we need to stand up against these attacks.” The workers want to make up for wage freezes, pension concessions, and insurance coverage lost over the past 15 years.

The bosses also want to impose mandatory 12-hour shifts to run production 24/7. The plant has been operating on three 8-hour shifts Monday to Friday.

Galvano is owned by the Chicago-based aerospace company Heico, which took control of the factory after

the previous owners declared bankruptcy. The plant specializes in finishing bolts used in manufacturing tractors and construction machinery.

Beside the picket trailer the workers have erected a posterboard that displays messages of support received from other union locals. So far three USW locals in Quebec have donated funds to back the strikers’ fight.

“I support your fight and will build solidarity with it among my co-workers at Walmart,” Pierre-Luc Filion, Communist League candidate in the federal constituency of Longueuil-St. Hubert, told workers on the picket line July 22.

—*Pierre-Luc Filion and Laura Long*

NYPD ponders firing cop 5 years after Eric Garner killing

BY JANET POST

NEW YORK — A New York Police Department administrative judge Aug. 3 recommended that cop Daniel Pantaleo, who killed Eric Garner in a chokehold on Staten Island five years ago, should be fired. Police Commissioner James O’Neill will rule on the recommendation.

“Finally, somebody has said there’s some information that this cop has done something wrong,” responded

Emerald Snipes-Garner, Eric Garner’s daughter, at a press conference following the decision. “Commissioner O’Neill, fire Pantaleo!” she said.

The decision comes after the Justice Department announced July 16 it would not bring civil rights charges against Pantaleo, despite the fact that the medical examiner classified Garner’s death as a “homicide,” and the autopsy report said that he died “during physical restraint by police.”

Thousands protested a Staten Island grand jury’s refusal to indict the cop in 2014.

“What did he do to die? The cops say, ‘no intent,’ but when it was obvious he couldn’t breathe what did they do to help him? Take the cuffs off? Give him water and air? Call EMS?” Esaw Snipes-Garner, Garner’s wife, told the *Militant* at a five-year memorial meeting that drew some 200 people to the Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem July 30.

“People may not know the name ‘Eric Garner,’ but when they hear ‘I can’t breathe,’ they know it means police brutality,” she added. Garner had yelled out those words 11 times before dying, and they have become a rallying cry for protests across the country. Since then Garner family members have been speaking out and organizing protests demanding Pantaleo’s prosecution.

Speakers at the meeting included Garner’s sons, Eric Garner Jr. and Emery Garner; Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X; and Korey Wise, one of the Central Park Five — Black and Latino teenagers framed up for the 1989 rape of a Caucasian woman in Central Park and imprisoned for up to 13 years.

“No one should forget the crimes of the police,” Shabazz told the audience.

“Come out and keep on organizing,” Kerry Ellington from People Against Police Brutality in New Haven, Connecticut, told the meeting. Ellington’s organization is demanding the prosecution of the cop who killed 15-year-old Jayson Negron in Bridgeport in May 2018.

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

August 22, 1994

Responsibility for the cold-blooded murder of Dr. John Britton and James Barrett by a rightist thug in Pensacola, Florida, on July 29 rests squarely on the federal government. Defenders of abortion rights, as well as the entire labor movement, should demand the Clinton administration immediately send U.S. troops to physically defend the clinics — in Pensacola and elsewhere — and to protect a woman’s constitutional right to control her own body. Massive protests by working people and others to condemn the murders are crucial to pushing back this attack.

The capitalist rulers have been able to push back abortion rights in the United States. In most parts of the country it is harder today than five years ago to get a competent and safe abortion. But their success has been limited. And that’s where the ultraright comes in, pushing further.

August 22, 1969

The Stalinist bureaucrats in Moscow and their subservient yes-men in Prague have been waging a campaign against demonstrations that are expected to occur in Czechoslovakia on Aug. 21, first anniversary of the Soviet-led invasion.

Cause for their alarm is the still-widespread feeling that protests must continue in one form or another, despite increased repressive measures that have been directed against the masses. These measures have included press censorship, administrative re-shufflings, arrest and imprisonment, and the threat of even tighter crackdowns.

Thousands of “underground” circulants have been distributed urging protest activities. These leaflets have been flooding factories, offices and large housing projects. The working class has been the most powerful force in the country opposing the post-invasion policies imposed on Czechoslovakia.

THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

August 19, 1944

DETROIT — Under the combined pressure of the international union officials, the government and General Motors corporation, a meeting of CIO United Automobile Workers Local 235 voted to terminate the second strike in recent weeks of 7,000 workers at the Chevrolet gear and axle plants here. But the issue is far from settled. A new walkout is likely in the event the “impartial umpire,” instructed by the War Labor Board to consider within five days the case of seven discharged union leaders, makes an unfavorable decision.

The militant action and solidarity of the gear and axle strikers has aroused union-wide repercussions and brought to the fore all the issues confronting UAW members everywhere. It has put a spotlight on the union-busting provocations of the corporations, the anti-labor role of the WLB and the treachery of UAW-CIO top leaders.

Cuba gov't refutes US slanders of internationalist volunteers

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hoping to stain the image of the Cuban Revolution, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo slandered Cuba's international medical assistance program, saying it engages in "exploitative and coercive labor practices" towards its volunteer doctors.

Pompeo announced July 26 that the State Department will deny visas to "certain Cuban officials & others responsible" for Cuba's overseas medical aid programs. "Cuba must cease using this program to earn money on the backs of its citizens," he said. The list of sanctioned officials has not been released.

Pompeo's slanders — and similar ones made by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro — that the Cuban medical personnel serving abroad are "slaves," are an attempt to hide the conquests made by workers and farmers in Cuba over the last five decades.

The building of a society based on the conscious solidarity of Cuba's working people is what defines the character of the primary care and medical education that 30,000 doctors, nurses and other health technicians trained by the Cuban Revolution are bringing to 67 countries around the world. Washington's lies are used to justify the economic war it has waged for more than 60 years, aimed at

overturning the Cuban Revolution.

"You will never be able to lie to the Brazilian people who know well the nobility and humanity of the Cuban medical program," said Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel in response to claims made by Bolsonaro. The charges "are the height of cynicism."

At the end of June, Cuban doctor Emmanuel Vigil Fonseca answered Washington's slanders in an interview with BBC. Vigil is a stalwart of Cuba's Henry Reeve International Contingent, created in 2005 at the initiative of late President Fidel Castro to provide medical care after natural disasters and to fight epidemics around the world.

Vigil was one of the 256 Cuban volunteers who played a key role in combating the Ebola epidemic in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Conakry from 2014 to 2015.

Opponents of the revolution allege that Cuba only sends help to other countries because they badly need the revenue for Cuba's economy.

"When the Henry Reeve brigade is deployed, it takes care of logistics, medicines, tents, electric generators," he noted. "We don't say, now that we are here, we need you to pay us." In addition to combating Ebola, the brigade aided victims of the 2005 earthquake in Paki-



Cuban Medical Brigade in Mozambique
Forty volunteer health care workers from Cuba's Henry Reeve brigade, who spent two months in Mozambique earlier this year, performed as many as 11 surgeries a day.

stan and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal among numerous other missions.

Some of the medical services provided by Cuba's international missions abroad are through agreements that include payment, others are provided at no cost.

The payment terms are no secret to the participating volunteers. The much needed currency is used to maintain the social gains of the revolution. "Each participant knows that they get a part and the rest goes to the National Health System, to the government. Not into someone's pocket to enrich themselves," Vigil said.

Vigil answered the slander that the Cubans' health missions in Venezuela were used to push people to vote for the government of Hugo Chávez and now of Nicolás Maduro and denied care to government opponents. Washington deliberately lies, saying Cuba maintains 20,000 soldiers in the country to prop up the government of Maduro. The overwhelming majority of the Cubans serving in Venezuela are doctors, teachers and sports instructors.

"We are doctors with the desire to help and the people opened their doors to us, both those who were in favor of the government of Chávez and those who were against," Vigil recalled. "There was no difference there."

In the introduction to the Pathfinder book, *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*, Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, addresses this question also.

"How has Cuba — with its limited economic resources and in face of unceasing aggression by Washington — been able to create a medical system acknowledged around the world for its excellence?" she said. "Why is no other country on the face of the earth capable of anything similar?"

It's because working people there made a revolution, Waters said. "Their economic, social and political accomplishments since then — from health care and education, to aid given freedom fighters the world over — have been possible only because they took the power to rule out of the hands of the landlords and capitalists."

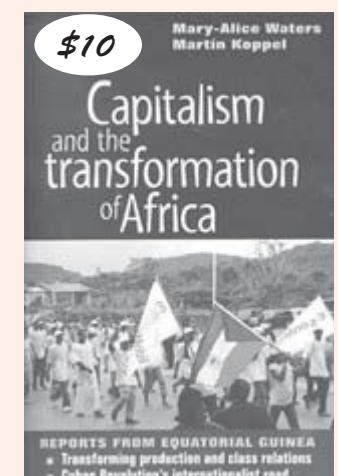
Miners in Harlan County have a long record of struggle — including bloody union-organizing battles in the 1930s, the historic Harlan County strike of 1973-74, and fights waged by miners across the country to establish a large measure of control over working conditions and enforce safety in the 1970s.

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party 2016 candidate for president, and a coal miner for 14 years, told the *Militant*, "Miners fighting for the pay they are owed deserve the support of working people and trade unions across the country. Defense of fights like these is essential to strengthening the unity of the working class."

"The SWP fights for a federal government-funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals and quality affordable housing that workers need," Kennedy explained. "We support workers' struggles to organize, and strengthen unions so we can use union power to take on coal companies like Blackjewel."

Jacquie Henderson and Ned Measel in Cumberland, Kentucky, and Arlene Rubinstein in Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

Recommended reading



Includes:

"Cuban Medical Cooperation: the Internationalist Example of a Socialist Revolution"
www.pathfinderpress.com

In Defense of the US Working Class

by Mary-Alice Waters

INCLUDES "THE FIGHTING HISTORY OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS" which tells the story of the 1977-1978 strike, the longest coal strike in U.S. history. "In 1978, the UMWA strike brought out once again the well-known fact that under capitalism workers are forced to fight for everything they get."

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Do El Paso killings show a rise of white supremacists?

BY SETH GALINSKY

Is the massacre of Latinos at a Walmart in El Paso by a rightist killer a sign that “there are more and more angry white people out there willing to commit mayhem?” as columnist Paul Krugman asserted in an Aug. 5 *New York Times* article. Are “white supremacists,” racism and anti-immigrant hatred rising as many liberal commentators allege?

Patrick Crusius, 21, murdered at least 22 people and injured another 24 when he opened fire at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, Aug. 3. There were as many as 3,000 people shopping and 100 employees inside the store at the time. According to one witness he shot people “aisle by aisle, with rage.”

Kianna Long, who survived the massacre, told CBS that workers at the store stopped to hold doors open, helping people inside get out and escape the slaying.

The store is close to the international bridge that crosses the border, and is popular with large numbers of Mexican-American families as well as families coming from Mexico. Working people in El Paso frequently cross over to Ciudad Juarez for cheaper medical care. And many residents of Ciudad Juarez go to school or work in El Paso.

At least seven of those killed or injured were Mexican nationals. Many of the rest are from families that have lived in Texas for generations. Some, like Arturo Benavides, 67, a bus driver, were U.S. army veterans.

Anti-immigrant manifesto

Police say that just minutes before he started shooting, Crusius posted an anti-immigrant statement online saying, “I support the Christchurch shooter and his manifesto. This attack is a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas.” He claimed to be “defending my country from cultural and ethnic replacement.”

The “Christchurch shooter” murdered 50 people at two mosques in New Zealand March 15. He was a rightist terrorist and self-proclaimed “eco-fascist,” who called Muslim immigrants an “assault on our civilization.”

The liberal media made a big point of saying Crusius’ statement echoed anti-immigrant comments by President Trump.

Beto O’Rourke, trying to salvage his presidential campaign, blamed Trump for the attack, saying the president “is a racist and he stokes racism in this country.” Candidate Elizabeth Warren said, “We need to call out the president himself for advancing racism and white supremacy.”

Trump tried to present himself as taking the moral high ground. “In one voice, our nation must condemn racism, bigotry, and white supremacy,” he said two days after the Walmart shooting and another in Dayton, Ohio, where nine people were shot dead and 27 wounded Aug. 4.

The president seized on the mass killings to call for bipartisan support for giving the cops and FBI “whatever they need” to combat “hate crimes and domestic terrorism.” He also proposed expanding use of the death penalty. But Crusius, charged with mur-

der, already faces the death penalty under existing laws.

As struggles by working people pick up in the future as the bosses intensify their assaults, more working people will come to see that the real target of stepped-up police spying and executions by the state is not terrorists, but the working class.

Trump also called for extending “red flag” laws that exist in some states. These vary, but can allow people to request a court order to prevent someone they know and consider a threat from accessing firearms.

Many liberals called for further “gun control.” But undermining the Bill of Rights, including the right to bear arms, to free speech and assembly, to a speedy trial, undercuts protections that are needed for defending the interests of the working class.

Less racism today

Anti-immigrant prejudices are continually fostered by the capitalist rulers as they attempt to divide working people, hoping to sap our capacity to struggle against their attacks on living standards and job conditions. But it’s not true that there is growing racism and prejudice against immigrants. In fact, there is less racism and anti-immigrant sentiment among working people, the consequence of the defeat of Jim Crow segregation by the mass Black rights movement in the 1950s and ’60s, which continues to be felt today. As native- and foreign-born workers live and work alongside each other, anti-immigrant prejudices begin to break down.

Liberal Democrats have pointed to President Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric, which is aimed at bolstering the bosses’ attempts to divide working people.

While the Democrats’ rhetoric may be different, their actions are not. Both

Asia-Pacific Cuba solidarity conference held in Nepal



Militant/Baskaran Appu

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Nearly 130 delegates gathered here July 26-27 for the Ninth Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Solidarity with Cuba. They exchanged experiences and discussed plans for activities to broaden opposition to the U.S. government’s six-decade-long economic war against the Cuban Revolution. In addition to several dozen participants from Nepal, the meeting brought together representatives of Cuba solidarity committees and other groups from 14 countries across the region, as well as from Cuba and the United States.

A keynote speaker was Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples and one of the five Cuban revolutionaries who spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons. A special guest was Aleida Guevara, daughter of Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. Shown in the photo, at the conference presiding table, are, from left: Oscar Martínez, Cuba’s ambassador to India and Nepal; Fernando González; Indian delegate Pallab Sengupta; conference organizing committee members Pashupati Chaulagain, Rajendra Prasad, and Rabindra Adhikari of Nepal; and (at podium) former Nepal Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal.

— MARTÍN KOPPEL

Bill Clinton and Barack Obama deported more immigrants than Trump. And Joe Biden, the leading Democratic Party candidate for president, has said that immigrants without papers in the U.S. “should have to get in line [to apply to stay]. That’s the problem.” All of this encourages scapegoating immigrants for the social and economic crisis of capitalism.

Despite the bipartisan anti-immigrant policies of the Democrats and Republicans, deportations are not popular among many workers.

“Working people need to denounce every attack on immigrants who are fellow workers,” said Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey General Assembly. “The answer to the bosses’ attempts to divide U.S.- and foreign-born workers is to demand amnesty for all 11 million immigrants in the U.S. without ‘official’ papers. This is not an ‘immigrant’ question. It’s needed to unite the working class and put us in a better position to organize the unorganized and rebuild a fighting union movement.”

Gibson family vows to continue their fight

BY ROY LANDERSEN

“It’s become clear that the fight’s not over,” David Gibson said in a video posted to Facebook Aug. 6. Gibson is one of the owners of a family-run bakery in Oberlin, Ohio, who won a lawsuit in June against Oberlin College and Meredith Raimondo, its vice president and dean of students, for slandering the Gibsons as “racist,” intentionally and maliciously damaging the small business.

“Recent public statements from Oberlin College make it clear that the college is refusing to accept the jury’s decision,” Gibson said.

Lawyers for Oberlin College have until Aug. 19 to submit post trial motions to Judge John Miraldi, who has said he will rule on them by Sept. 9. Post trial motions can be used to request a retrial or overturn or modify a verdict.

In the Aug. 6 video Gibson reported that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The school administrators knew about the diagnosis since February and the college’s lawyers filed a motion to prevent any mention of it during the trial. “We agreed because I wanted the jury to decide this

case on the facts alone. Nothing else,” Gibson explained.

Less than a day after the June 13 jury verdict that found the college guilty, its president, Carmen Twillie Ambar, stated, “This is not the final outcome.”

“They’re sending a clear message to me and to my 91-year-old dad that they will just wait us out,” Gibson said.

The school says it intends to appeal the verdict and multimillion-dollar judgment against it, a process that could take years.

Judge Miraldi required the school, which admits it is in dire financial straits, to post a \$36 million bond — covering \$25 million in damages, \$6.5 million in lawyers fees plus three years interest — before allowing a stay of execution on the court’s judgment.

A *Militant* headline last week incorrectly stated that the college paid the bond. But the college only posted a bond with the court, a guarantee that the institution will pay the Gibsons the multimillion-dollar judgment if it is not overturned at the end of the appeals process. The college secured the bond through a major insurance company which has agreed to pay the

judgment if for any reason the college does not.

The Gibsons brought the lawsuit against the college after its officials orchestrated protests outside the bakery, claiming that the Gibsons had a long history of racial profiling, and pursued a boycott campaign to damage the small business.

The protests took place after three college students who are Black were charged after trying to shoplift from Gibson’s. They all pled guilty to misdemeanor charges and stated that no element of racism was involved in the Gibsons’ actions.

Instead of issuing a statement to say the Gibsons were not racist, as the bakery owners asked, college officials demanded that the small business owners refuse to call the cops the first time a student shoplifts from their store and just report the theft to the college. Attitudes of class privilege and entitlement drove college officials in their dealing with the small business owners. They underestimated the widespread support the Gibsons would win from working people in the region as they stood up to the college’s smear campaign.

‘Workers should organize a guard whenever it is necessary’

Socialism on Trial: Testimony at Minneapolis Sedition Trial by James P. Cannon is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. Cannon, a founding leader of the communist movement in the U.S., was one of 18 Socialist Workers Party and Teamsters union leaders on trial in 1941 for organizing labor opposition to the U.S. rulers' drive to enter World War II. In his testimony below, he gives a clear and forthright presentation of the communist program of the fighting vanguard of the working class. Copyright © 1942, 2014 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Q: Will you tell the court and jury the position of the Socialist Workers Party on workers defense guards?

A: Well the party is in favor of the workers organizing defense guards wherever their organizations or their meetings are threatened by hoodlum violence. The workers should not permit their meetings to be broken up or their halls to be wrecked, or their work to be interfered with, by Ku Klux Klanners or Silver Shirts or fascists of any type, or hoodlums, or reactionary thugs, but should organize a guard and protect themselves where it is necessary.

Q: How long ago was the idea of a workers defense guard first put forth by the group of which you are a member?



Teamsters Local 544 Union Defense Guard assembles in Minneapolis, 1938. Union volunteers organized to resist assaults by employer-funded fascist groups. SWP leader James P. Cannon explains that workers should protect themselves where necessary from hoodlum violence by anti-working-class forces.

A: I may say that I have known about this idea, which we didn't invent at all, all my thirty years in the labor movement. I have known about the idea of workers defense guards and seen them organized and helped to organize them more than once long before I ever heard of the Russian Revolution.

Q: And did the Trotskyist group ever start organizing these guards before it became the Socialist Workers Party?

A: Yes, in the first year of our existence, in 1929. The Communist Party, the Stalinists, tried to break up our meetings by hoodlum violence. They did break up a number of meetings and we reacted to that by organizing a workers defense guard to protect our meetings, and invited to participate in this guard not only Trotskyists, but other workers organizations which were also being attacked by the Stalinist hoodlums.

Let me explain this. The Stalinists had a system in those days of trying to break up meetings of the Socialist Party, of the IWW, of a group called the Proletarians, of anybody who didn't agree with the Stalinists. They tried the Stalin game of breaking them up, so in self-defense, without any theory from anybody, we reacted by organizing workers defense guards to protect our meetings. And I may add, parenthetically, we protected them so well that we put a stop to that monkey business at the cost of a few cracked heads, which I personally greatly appreciated in those days. ...

Q: Did you ever hold a meeting

where you spoke where workers defense guards protected the meeting?

A: Yes. Here is the *Militant* (indicating) under date of January 15, 1929, which reports a meeting addressed by me in Cleveland, Ohio, on the same subject about which I was speaking then, “The Truth About Trotsky and the Russian Opposition,” and the account in the paper tells about a gang of Stalinists who came there and tried to disrupt the meeting, and heckled the speaker, and they began to try violence —

Q: You were the speaker, were you?

A: I was the speaker, and I recall very well that I was protected by a guard which we had organized, and the report says that the workers guard finally formed a flying wedge and put the disrupters out of the meeting, and the speaker was allowed to continue to the end. ...

Q: But in the meanwhile you want to build, do you not, a workers militia?

A: A workers defense guard, yes.

Q: I mean, not alone for the purpose of defending the union halls, but for other purposes, isn't that right? Don't you want to build, while you are advancing toward power, a workers militia? To help you when you get into power?

A: We use the expression “workers defense guards” because that is most American and most easily and precisely defines what we want. The workers defense guards will grow in size and strength insofar as the guards have a task to perform, not because we want them to grow.

If the fascists grow and fight the unions, the unions must inevitably counter that movement by developing their defense guards, and if the defense guards are overpowered by fascist gangsters and hoodlums and thugs, the only answer of the unions can be to strengthen the guards, and in the course of that struggle between the fascist gangs and the workers defense guards, we hope the workers defense guards will grow strong and eventually become a very effective power. ...

[W]e say the overwhelming weight of possibility, based upon historical experience, is that the ruling class of this country will attempt to resolve the conflict with the workers

by fascist violence before we gain a majority in Congress. Or if it should come to the point where we gain a majority in a democratic election, the ruling class would stage a slaveholders' rebellion against it. And we will undertake to put down that rebellion as decisively as possible.

Q: And to that end you want to start in advance to build up a workers army, don't you?

A: You can't by mere program build up a workers army to confront such a thing. The force of the workers will grow up out of their unions, out of their workers defense guards, out of the rank and file of the soldiers and the farmers who are in the armed forces, who will not support the slaveholders' rebellion. We will not be without resources if we have a majority of the people. ...

[Y]ou cannot organize workers defense guards merely because you want them — only when there is a pressing need for them that is obvious to the workers, regardless of their agreement with our ideas.

Q: It would be a pleasing thing, would it not, to the Socialist Workers Party to be able to establish workers guards in all trade unions for the ultimate purpose of the party?

A: I would go further than that and say that the establishment of workers defense guards is an almost automatic process as the unions encounter the violence of fascist hoodlums. Our task will be to accelerate it, to say it is a good idea, build it up and make it stronger.

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Oppose US sanctions on Venezuela

Continued from front page

aimed at foreign companies and governments — including in China, Russia, Turkey and India — that have continued to trade with the Venezuelan government despite Washington's increasingly hostile measures.

The U.S. government had previously sanctioned more than 100 Venezuelan officials, confiscated Venezuelan government-owned Citgo's assets and bank accounts in the U.S. and turned them over to supporters of Guaidó, and cut off most economic deals with state-owned Venezuelan oil company PDVSA. It backed a failed coup attempt by Guaidó in April and has tried to prevent Venezuela from sending oil to Cuba.

Governments of major European countries have joined with threats of imposing their own sanctions.

Washington's escalating sanctions come amid negotiations taking place between representatives of the Venezuelan government and the opposition since May.

The embargo does not apply to the privately owned capitalist companies that account for most of Venezuela's non-oil production. And Chevron — the last major US oil company still operating in Venezuela — and Halliburton, are exempt from the new rules until Oct. 25.

"We are sending a signal to third parties that want to do business with the Maduro regime: Proceed with caution," National Security Adviser John Bolton warned in a speech in Peru to more than 50 governments aligned with Washington. "There is no need to risk your business interests with the United States."

Washington says it will freeze the bank accounts and assets of any company it deems has violated the order.

With imperial arrogance, Bolton told the conference that an economic embargo "worked in Panama, it worked in Nicaragua once, and it will work there again; and it will work in Venezuela and Cuba!"

Bolton was referring to economic sanctions on Panama prior to the U.S. invasion in 1990 that overthrew Manuel Noriega; sanctions against Nicaragua after the 1979 revolution there, and Washington's more than 60-year economic war against Cuba.

Maduro, like Hugo Chávez before him, has tried to administer and regulate the capitalist economy. But with a steep drop in oil prices and production it has become increasingly difficult to carry out the welfare programs established by the government.

The U.S. rulers hope that by increasing the suffering of Venezuela's workers and farmers they can get rid of Maduro, and get a government more to their liking. A central objective of Washington's strategy is to deal blows to Cuba's socialist revolution and its solidarity with Venezuela and other countries in the region.

Washington's sanctions had severely exacerbated the economic and social crisis working people face. Shortages of medicine, food and other basic necessities at prices working people can afford are widespread. Some 4 million have fled for Colombia and other neighboring countries.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez called the U.S. moves "another action to damage and rob" Venezuela.

New US tariffs aim to counter rise of Beijing

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to buy more U.S.-made food products. In turn, Beijing warned it would take "necessary countermeasures" if the duties are enforced.

The move escalated the tensions between Washington, the world's dominant but declining imperialist power, and its biggest rival, the emerging power in Beijing. The U.S. rulers rely on their huge domestic market and the preponderance of the dollar in world trade as well as their unrivaled military might, hoping to hold off the rise of the Chinese rulers and offset their own decline.

Beijing seeks to assert its influence through huge loans to governments across Asia and the Pacific; infrastructure projects that facilitate the trade of Chinese bosses; and by the massive expansion of their navy and the establishment of military bases on islands across the South China Sea.

U.S. exports to China are only a fraction of those flowing the other way, so Beijing can't match Washington tariff for tariff. But it is taking other measures. The Chinese government allowed its currency to slide lower Aug. 5 to partially offset any price rises caused by the new tariffs. Trump immediately denounced Beijing's "currency ma-

nipulation."

Behind Trump's tariff assault, the U.S. rulers have been trying to push back on Beijing's various forms of hidden protectionism — such as forcing foreign investors to transfer technology to their Chinese collaborators, as well as hefty subsidies to China's state-owned enterprises.

The duties could add to the costs of consumer goods, from shoes to clothing, car parts to cellphones. This is on top of existing 25% punitive duties on \$250 billion in Chinese imports.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other capitalist spokespeople, like Trump's former economic adviser Gary Cohn, have raised concerns that the protracted tariff dispute is starting to damage the U.S. economy.

While the sharpening rivalry between Washington and Beijing is often portrayed as a matter of trade imbalances — with Trump claiming his tariffs will boost the U.S. economy and create more jobs — Washington's primary concern is securing its military dominance. Maintaining its preeminent position in telecommunications, electronics, aerospace and shipbuilding industries is key for this.

LETTERS

Trial is 'no consolation'

As a former telecom worker in the U.K., I recognized many of the abuses suffered by France Telecom workers described in the article "Telecom Bosses on Trial for Driving Workers to Suicide."

In the U.K. thousands of workers were driven to early retirement as the workforce was exposed to speedup, dislocation and intolerable pressure.

The bosses were able to get away with these practices because union leaderships organized no resistance to these attacks and often colluded with the bosses.

Prosecution of individual bosses in France who sanctioned such abuses is no consolation to the workers whose lives were destroyed. Often trials like this are endorsed by

the union leaderships and act as a substitute for organizing a serious fight.

*Bill Loxton
Aberdeen, United Kingdom*

Don't give up the right!

The prison system uses every excuse they can to keep the *Militant* from prisoners. In 1970, I was a "guest" of the federal prison system where I first saw the *Militant*.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the *Militant*, earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

The more I read the more I could understand the capitalist system.

Prison officials tried to keep the *Militant* from me and others, but I won the right to have the paper.

Here we are 50 years later and the system is still trying to stop the *Militant*. I read about the Florida prison system, and their fight to keep the paper from prisoners. All I can say is keep fighting the system, you do have the right to speak and read what you like. Don't give up the right.

*George Blue
Michigan City, Indiana*

The letters column is an open forum on subjects of interest to working people. Where necessary letters will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Prison censorship

Continued from front page

The banned issues contain "worthy information and we do not believe they raise any security or incitement issues with respect to the prison system," says the letter the association sent to the prison system's Literature Review Committee Aug. 1. "Prisoners should have access to information in the outside world and to different points of view."

Supporters of prisoners rights and of the rights of the *Militant* can use this new support — along with previous letters from Amnesty International USA, the National Coalition Against Censorship, the National Lawyers Guild, the American Civil Liberties Union - Florida, WeCount! in Miami-Dade County, and the Riverside Church Prison Ministry — to step up the campaign to overturn the bans on the paper.

The first ban upheld this year by the Literature Review Committee was of issue no. 15, impounded for an article on the speaking tour of Albert Woodfox, who spent more than 40 years in solitary confinement at the state penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. His story has been reported on in dozens of newspapers around the country. Since then the review committee has upheld almost every ban. Four impounded issues are still to be reviewed.

Prison officials claim that the banned issues encourage activities that "could lead to physical violence or group disruption" or at minimum present "a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system." But prison officials have never pointed to a single sentence to justify their allegations nor explained why they ban some issues, but not others with similar news.

Florida officials have now impounded seven issues in a row — numbers 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 — for reporting on the socialist newsweekly's ongoing fight against censorship.

The *Militant* has subscribers behind bars in 74 state and federal prisons in 21 states, but it is *only* being systematically censored in Florida.

More letters are starting to arrive at the offices of the Literature Review Committee calling on it to reverse all the bans. Three current or retired school workers in North Carolina sent a letter Aug. 6.

"As public-school educators, we believe that the publication should be made available to all inmates who want it, to respect their First Amendment rights," they wrote. "It is wrong to deny prisoners their freedom to read literature of their choice."

Some *Militant* subscribers behind bars have filed grievances through the Department of Correction's established procedures, calling for overturning the bans.

"There is nothing that I read or watch on TV that causes me to act in protest," one prisoner said in his appeal. What causes protests, he said, "is the ongoing abuse of authority by prison staff." The only reason that officials are banning the *Militant* is because "someone disagrees with the viewpoints expressed in the articles."

"Prisoners are working people like you and me," said *Militant* editor John Studer. "They want to know what is happening in the world, to read a wide range of views, to debate and discuss, to form their own opinions."

Millions of working people have friends or relatives behind bars or have spent time in prison themselves. They know the conditions that prisoners face and have experienced how the "justice" system works, including how plea bargaining undermines the right to a trial and a jury of your peers. "That's why we can win even more support to overturn the bans," Studer said.

Fight prison censorship!

Get out the word: Download, print and distribute *Militant* articles on this fight.

Get support statements from co-workers, unions, churches and others. Mail to: Literature Review Committee Att: Dean Peterson, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500; Email to: Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com Send copies to themilitant@mac.com

Send checks to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, for "Prisoners Rights Fight."

Or contribute online at themilitant.com